

German Embassy
J.Nr. 405/37

Tokyo, 8 March 1937.

POLITICAL INFORMATION

Subject: Intensification of Japanese South Seas Policy

In recent years there has scarcely been one speech on foreign political program, or one Diet debate that has not at least suggested and in stereotyped expression brought up the problem of Japanese South Sea Policy. The reason for this was besides the life and death problems for Japan of raw materials, markets and immigration, the prestige of the Navy which maintained, as is widely known, in contrast to the continental aims of the Army, the necessity of sufficient protection of peaceful expansion in the South Seas by Japan.

It is not surprising that the present day Diet is paying more than merely traditional or academic interest in the South Seas problem when one sees that the Washington Treaty has recently expired, that the English and American new powerful naval armament is causing disgust in Japan, that the question of the world division of raw materials has reached a decisive stage as a result of the meeting of the Committee in Geneva and the concrete taking up of the German colonial and raw material problems, and that lastly, the lengthy Japanese-Netherlands East Indian trade treaty negotiations have not yet shown any satisfactory results.

The Japanese government has also recently tended to show tendencies of a certain intensification of its South Seas Policy. Several measures have been taken, which at the same time should meet the endeavors, anchored generally in the internal-political reform program for the strengthening and unifying coordination of the foreign trade policy.

In this way, the Foreign Ministry here has established a South Seas Division, and its mission is to unify and lead all official work done concerning the South Seas questions.

Moreover, the newly appointed Japanese Ministry to the Hague, former Director of the East Asiatic Bureau of the Foreign Ministry Kiwashima, was despatched on an inspection tour to the Netherlands East Indies before going to his new post. His activities there will scarcely be restricted to simple courtesy contacts with the NEI officials or to accelerate the Japanese-NEI Trade Treaty negotiations.

It is perhaps better to accept the view that Kuwashima, after his return to Japan, based on his impressions gained on the spot, will suggest to the concerned governmental quarters plans to further effectively carry out various Japanese projects in the South Seas, in order to, after his arrival at the Hague, lead Japanese-Dutch relations to a new and positive phase.

The highest leading principle for the Japanese policy will be in future as in the past -- this will be emphasized on all occasions -- the absolutely friendly economic development and penetration of extremely important raw material and market regions in close and friendly agreement with the Netherlands Government.

Concerning this gradual settling of the target by the government, a Minseito M.P. who pays special attention to South Seas problems, Hyogoro Sakurai, in his interpellation, made a point that appeared to be premature and to overshoot its target. He proposed that Japan should lease eternally the Netherlands, New Guinea and other small neighboring islands and conclude a non-aggression pact with Holland. Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hayashi made a reserved answer and said he would consider the proposal, and utilized the opportunity to again emphasize that Japan had no territorial ambitions concerning the NEI or the Philippines.

In the course of this debate, Hayashi in the end, touched briefly on the question of Australian immigration and promised that the government would take the initiative also in this direction.

In the Diet, and therefore in the open forum of Japan and the world, all the problems included in the concept of "Impetus Toward the South" were one after another touched upon. The expressions were renewed that Japan sees in the peaceful penetration and development of the thinly populated South Seas raw material areas where Japanese labor and capital had already widely taken hold one of the most natural ways to satisfy Japanese material necessity in the sense of a justified division of raw material and colonial areas of the world.

On the morning following the debate, a Domei report from the Hague had the effect of a cold douche. According to this report, the Dutch Government's answer to the Japanese proposal was that the conclusion of a non-aggression pact was contradictory to the general attitude and

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political tradition of the Netherlands, however, that the Netherlands Government was ready within the scope of the policy of the open door, which has always been maintained by it, to consider sincerely the Japanese proposal to acquire rights in New Guinea, provided it turns out to be legally valid.

(Signed) VON DIRKSEN

C E R T I F I C A T E
O F O R I G I N

I, YALE MAXON, Chief of the Document Division, IPS,
hereby certify:

1. That I am Chief of the Document Division of the
International Prosecution Section, GHQ, SCAP, and as such
have possession, custody, and control of original or copies
of all documents obtained by the said Section.

2. That frames 289 - 292 being 4 sheets of a photostatic
copy of telegram from Dirksen to Berlin of 8 March 1937 and
fained in IPS Document 4040 were received by the IPS from the
Office of the Chief of Counsel of the Nuremburg War Crimes
Trials.

YALE MAXON (Signed)

ドイツ大使館

丁. Nr. 405/37

東京一九三七年(昭和十二年)三月八日

政治的報告

内容 日本ノ南洋政策ノ積極化

最近数年間ニ行ハタ外交政策ノプログラムヲ述ベテ演説或
ヒハ議會ノ討論ヲ日本ノ南洋政策ノ問題カタクモ暗示サルカ
或ヒハ又キヨリタリ言ヒ廻シテ提出サレタコトハ一度モナカワソノ
タトニハ日本ニ取ツテ生命ニ関ハル程重大ナ原料販賣及ビ移
民利害ノ外ニ既ニ海軍ノ威信カ左ウケタテテ海軍ハ周
知ノ如ク陸軍ノ大陸ニ於ケル目標ニ對シテ日本ノ南洋ニ於ケル
平和的ナ拡張ノタメニ充分ノ擁護ノ必要ヲ對抗カセラル
最近ワシントン條約カ満期ヲ効力ヲ失フタコト英國及ビアリ
カノ強大ナ新レイ海軍ニ備ケ日本ヲ不安ニサセテナルコト、世界
ニ於ケル原料分配ノ問題カワジュネーク委員会カ集合シテ
ノト共ニ又ワシントン植民地原料問題ヲ目體的ニ取り上ルコト
ト共ニ決定的ナ段階ニ入ラコト又最近ニ長引イタル日本ト關
印ノ貿易協定交渉カ今ナ何等満足スベキ最右ノ成果ニ
達シテナイトコトヲ見レ、現在ノ議會カ唯傳統的ナ或
ヒハ學問的ナ関心以上ノモノヲ南洋問題ニ接サレタルコトハ
教馬クニカコナク
日本ノ政府當局モ亦最近、南洋政策ヲ或ハ方法ヲ積極化
シコトスル契機ヲ示シタル即チ當局ハニ、三ノ処置ヲ請ジ
タカシ、同時ニ日本内政上ノ一般的ナ改良計画ニツカレテ
平ル貿易政策ノ強化ト統一的政策中ヘノ努力ニ適合ス可キモ
ノナテタク。

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この討議の間ニ終ハ最後ニ「オーストラリア」ノ特許問題ハ「閣員」ニ言及シ「この方面ニ於テモ政府が「インテリヤ」ヲ取コトフ約束シタリ。

斯ク「ヤク」議會ヲ前ニシテ「故ニ日本ト世界ニ開ノ市場ヲ南方ヘノ進出」ト云フ概念ニ集結セテ「全問題」カ次々觸レシタリソノ際日本ハ人口ノ稀薄ナ既ニ日本ノ「労働力」ト日本ノ「資本」ヲ広汎ニ捉ヘシテ「南洋ノ原料地域」ヲ平和的ニ「浸透」シ「開拓」スル「古界ノ原料地」ト「移民地帯」ヲ「正當ニ分割」スルト云フ意味ニ於テ「日本ノ國民的」必要ヲ満足セサル「タメ」ニ「取モ自然的」ナ方法「一ツ」ヲ「見做」スト云フコト「改メテ」述ベラレタリ「アウタ」。

乍然「上述」ノ議會討論「アウタ」朝「ヘ」カ「外」ノ「次」ノ「稀」ナ同盟情報ハ冷水ヲ浴セタキ「作用」シタコノ情報ニヨリ日本ノ提議者ニ對スル「オランダ」當局ノ答ハ「不可侵條約」締結ハ「オランダ」ノ全般的態度ト「政治的傳統」ニ矛盾スルコト「併シ」「オランダ」政府ハ何時モ「保持」シテ「門戸開放」政策ノ「枠内」ニ於テ「「ニユーギニア」ニ於テ」權利取得ノ日本ノ「申込」ミヲ「ソシカ」法律的ニ「妥當」ナ「限り」具斂ニ考慮スル用意アルコトヲ「述ベタモ」ノ「アウタ」。

「フオン」・「ディルクセン」(「四右右」)